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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace drawing sheet 9/9 with the attached replacement sheet 9/9.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/828,770
Page 3 of 9

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The Office Action mailed June 7, 2006, for the present application has been reviewed. The present amendment makes changes to the specification at paragraphs 8 and 11, the claims and responds to the objection to the drawings by providing a replacement sheet 9/9 noting the figures are prior art. Considered together with the following remarks, these amendments are believed sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants express appreciation for thoughtful examination by the Examiner.

Claims 8-9 and 12-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 10-11 have been canceled by the foregoing amendments.

The invention provides an improved stabilizing system for vehicles such as firefighting equipment on which aerial ladders are mounted wherein the need for firm stabilization is great. The claims have been amended to better define the invention relative to the prior art. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

The primary reference to Wieschel shows a stabilizing device wherein jack towers are provided, but which do not teach the use of a double-acting hydraulic cylinder to control the movements thereof. The reference also fails to teach the use of a nonorthogonal angle to the ground-engaging jack.

The office action is predicated on the use of a secondary reference to Senelet to make up for the shortcomings of the primary reference. However, a careful reading of Senelet indicates that the reference does not use hydraulic leveling cylinders as contended in the rejection. First, note that Senelet is extremely sketchy as to what

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/828,770
Page 6 of 9

control mechanism is involved. Note for example, at column 2, lines 13-14, that the "adjustment means consists of jacks." Note also that mechanism, rather than having a double-acting cylinder of any kind, or even a single-acting hydraulic cylinder, requires a system having a stop means for limiting sliding movement of the elements beyond a predetermined extension. See the language in Claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that a hydraulic system would not utilize or require such stops. It should also be noted that the expression "hydraulic" is nowhere mentioned in Senelet.

In considering what Senelet intended by the expression "jacks" there are brought to mind various automotive jack devices, for example, those used for changing tires, etc. In lighter vehicles, it is standard to use mechanical jacks, whereas hydraulic jacks which require manipulation of a hand pump are often used in the case of heavier vehicles such as trucks. Such jacks would be consistent with the need to have a stop mechanism of some type to limit the sliding motion of the extendable piston portion of such a jack.

Clearly, the device of Senelet, therefore, cannot make up for the deficiencies of the primary reference. The use of manually-operated jacks would, while possibly being a slight improvement over the Wieschel threaded jack devices, still clearly fall far short of the devices produced by the teachings of the present invention. It must be considered that the aerial ladders supported by the devices of the present invention are capable of exerting very high torsional forces on the vehicle and its stabilizing jack system. The device, as claimed in the remaining amended claims, may appear relatively simple in hindsight. However, the device solves serious problems that have

existed heretofore and clearly is not obvious from the combined Wieschel/Senelet combination of references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the invention is not obvious from the combined references or either of the references taken individually. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is thus earnestly solicited.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/828,770
Page 8 of 9

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SEP 06 2006

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed each and every item presented by the Examiner in this Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of all of the claims as amended and the replacement drawing sheet 9/9 is earnestly solicited. Applicants submit that the present application, with amendments, is in a condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance.

In the event any further matters requiring attention are noted by Examiner or in the event that prosecution of this application can otherwise be advanced thereby, a telephone call to Applicants' undersigned representative at the number shown below is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-6-06

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted on September 6, 2006 to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, 571-273-8300.

Date: 9-6-06
Lorri A. Rosier

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Serial No. 10/828,770
Page 9 of 9